

Message Text

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TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.), PFOR

SUBJECT: REPORTAGE OF TRAVELING PRESS, THURSDAY, MARCH 28

FOR VEST FROM KING

SUMMARY: WIRE, CHANGING LEADS ON LONDON ARRIVAL, STRESS FAILURE TO AGREE ON CONCEPTUAL BREAKTHROUGH. NEWSPAPERS CARRY ODD COLLECTION OF MOOD PIECES (NYT, CSM) AND UNREMARKABLE ROUNDUPS OF HAK'S THREE DAYS IN MOSCOW. END SUMMARY.

1. AP'S SCHWEID FILES THIS DAY LEAD EX LONDON: SECSTATE HAK FLEW TOWARD HOME TODAY WITH SOVIET PROPOSALS THAT FALL SHORT OF THE "CONCEPTUAL BREAKTHROUGH" NEEDED TO PRODUCE NEW SALT TREATY. WHILE ACKNOWLEDGING THIS FAILURE, A SENIOR US OFFICIAL SAID PRES. NIXON INTENDS TO GO AHEAD WITH A SUMMIT MEETING WITH BREZHNEV IN MOSCOW IN EARLY SUMMER. WITHOUT DETAILING DIFFERENCES, THE OFFICIAL SAID FLATLY: "WHAT THEY GAVE US IS NOT ACCEPTABLE. COUNTER- HOWEVER, THAT THE US WOULD TRY TO COME UP WITH COUNTER- PROPOSALS AND THAT HAK PROBABLY WILL GO BACK TO MOSCOW IN

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MAY. MEANTIME HE WILL CONFER REGULARLY WITH DOBRYNIN,

WILL SEE GROMYKO AT UN NEXT MONTH, AND TECHNICAL TALKS WILL CONTINUE IN GENEVA. HAK FLEW TO MOSCOW LAST WEEKEND SAYING HE EXPECTED SALT BREAKTHROUGH THAT PRESIDENT COULD SIGN AT THIRD SUMMIT. BUT ACKNOWLEDGING THIS FORECAST WAS

TOO OPTIMISTIC, THE US OFFICIAL SAID OF HAK'S DISCUSSIONS WITH BREZHNEV OVER PAST THREE DAYS: "THERE WAS MOVEMENT BUT I WOULD NOT YET DESCRIBE IT AS A BREAKTHROUGH." STORY THEN QUOTES HAK'S POSITIVE DEPARTURE STATEMENT FROM MOSCOW AND PICKS UP ROUNDUP OF HIS THREE DAYS OF TALKS.

2. REUTER'S NELSON MOVED THIS DAY LEAD EX LONDON: SECSTATE HAK AND SOV LEADERS IN THREE DAYS OF MOSCOW TALKS, FAILED TO AGREE ON HOW TO PROCEED TO A NEW SALT PACT, HIGH US OFFICIALS SAID. THE FAILURE ALL BUT RULES OUT THE SIGNING OF ANY MEANINGFUL ARMS PACT BY PRESIDENT NIXON AT AN EXPECTED MOSCOW SUMMIT IN LATE JUNE OR EARLY JULY. NELSON TIES FAILURE ON BREAKTHROUGH TO UNEXPECTED POLITBUREO MEET YESTERDAY. QUOTES SENIOR US OFFICIAL (IN PARAPHRASE) AS SAYING THAT FOLLOWING MEET, ATTENDED BY GRECHKO, SOVS MADE UNACCEPTABLE PROPOSALS. HAK MUST NOW PRESENT SOV IDEAS TO WASHINGTON OFFICIALDOM TO SEE IF THEY CAN BE ADAPTED TO US THINKING. NELSON WRITES, ADDING ONE SENIOR OFFICIAL PREDICTED A "BRAWL" HERE WHEN HAK RETURNS. GOES ON TO CALL FAILURE ON SALT SEVERE DISAPPOINTMENT FOR PRESIDENT NIXON WHO TOLD TV NEWS CONFERENCE LAST WEEK THAT SUMMIT MEETS MAKE SENSE ONLY IF THEY SECURE MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS. NIXON WILL STILL ATTEND JUNE SUMMIT IN MOSCOW, NELSON SAYS, BUT WILL NOT BE ABLE TO SIGN FOLLOW-ON PACT TO INTERIM AGREEMENT. STORY GOES ON TO NOTE MIRVS SEEM TO BE STICKING POINT.

3. NYT LEADS PAPER WITH UNSIGNED PIECE, PRESUMABLY SMITH'S, NOTING BOTH SIDES POINTING TO ACHIEVEMENT OF CONCRETE AGREEMENTS DURING JUNE SUMMIT BUT LEAVING UNCLEAR WHETHER SOUGHT-FOR BREAKTHROUGH REACHED. BALANCE OF STORY COLLECTION OF QUOTES GLEANED FROM BOTH SIDES DURING CEREMONIAL APPEARANCES DURING DAY.

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4. ON POST FRONT PAGE SAYS THIS SESSION ENDED WITH MAJOR NEGOTIATING STILL AHEAD TO PREPARE FOR SUMMIT. QUOTES SOV SOURCES AS INDICATING RETURN TRIP BY HAK MAY BE REQUIRED, NOTING SOVS ALSO "NEED TIME TO THINK." MARDER, SAYING TALKS SEEM TO BE ENDING INCONCLUSIVELY, QUOTES US OFFICIAL: "I DON'T THINK THAT IS A JUSTIFIABLE CHARACTERIZATION. WE DID WHAT COULD BE ACCOMPLISHED IN THIS TIME SCALE...THERE ARE OBSTACLES THAT CANNOT BE

OVERCOME." NOTES JOINT STATEMENT ISSUED LAST NIGHT THIN
AND UNSPECTACULAR.

5. WSJ HAS ONLY MENTION OF TALKS IN ITS FRONT-PAGE NEWS
SUMMARY.

6. CHITRIB USES REUTER ACCOUNT OF SURPRISE POLITBURO
MEET. NO STARR COPY.

7. MONITOR'S SAIKOWSKI HAS ANOTHER FEATURE ON SOVS
VIEWING DETENTE BOON TO SOVIET ECONOMY. RUSH

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